625 operates on the Gediminas Street in Vilnius, and nearly 30% of its cadets are Lithuanians. Small tank and reconnaissance planes are at the disposal of the MVD and MGB forces.

The People's Militia is part of the MVD, and most of the Lithuanian personnel is found there. The *"Istrebiteli"* ("Exterminators") are a part of the MGB. The "Istrebiteli" were devised in the spring of 1945 to combat "political bandits." Guerrilla activities were widespread at the time, and the Russians attempted to enlist about 30 native "Istrebiteli" in each township. All sorts of inducements and privileges were offered, including exemption from draft. Native Russians, gypsies and Polish-speaking city vagrants enlisted, as well as some Lithuanian youths anxious to escape the draft. The guerrillas, through the underground press and through their relatives, waged a very strenuous campaign against the "Istrebiteli." Recruits were ambushed and killed. Their ranks were depleted in skirmishes, when untrained raw recruits faced the veteran guerrillas. After each skirmish, the guerrillas circulated mimeographed appeals to "brothers," urging the "Stribs" to abandon the enemy and either join the guerrilla forces or seek a legal status somewhere in the country, rather than aid the oppressor in destroying their own people. This campaign was successful: few Lithuanians enlisted and the recruits deserted.

725 The Russians used the "Stribs" in collecting com-
625 pulsory grain quotas and taxes, and these functions made them universally hated. The inhabitants slyly derided the "Stribs" and *"Stribikauliai"* (deformed hips), etc., just as they referred to the "great" comrade Suslov as *"Šušlava"* (trash sweepings). The "Stribs," receiving weapons but no uniforms nor food from the government, followed the example of the Russian tutors and engaged in wholesale robberies, murders and thefts. Farmers in no way connected with the resistance defended themselves with axes and scythes.

Such "living standards" rapidly depleted the once formidable force. In most places, only 2 or 3 "Stribs" survived in individual townships. These were finally incorporated in the uniformed MGB units. Township contingents were complemented by Russian aliens, a dozen to several dozen men in each township. Reserve units of the "Stribs" are stationed in county seats. These "operational MGB aktivs" roam the countryside night and day. They search homes, collect taxes, grain quotas, seek the hiding places of the guerrillas, detain people, and shoot suspects on sight—capital punishment was "abolished" in Russia....

Frontier Corps units are stationed along the heavily guarded and fortified Polish frontier, and on the seacoast. MVD railroad units guard railroad stations and depots and check passengers' papers on trains. Combined MGB-MVD patrols (jeeps, armored cars, armored motorcycles, and tanks) control the main highways, especially at night.

War Psychosis

723 Preparations for war are in evidence everywhere.
722 New airfields are constructed, old fields are expanded and modernized. Armored units, air squadrons and artillery are constantly in transit. Closely guarded military trains travel by night. The populace is kept in a state of nervous war tension—probably to provoke

723 722 "latent enemies of the people." Mobilization exercises are periodically staged, to test the apparatus. Speakers addressing mass meetings denounce American and British "imperialists" and "warmongering aggressors." War morale permeates the administrative apparatus, the Party and army circles. Workers are urged to strain every effort for the "defense of the Soviet motherland" and to increase the output.

[207] Radio listening sets are still in existence. Their number is considerably smaller than before the war, inasmuch as permits are required. Such permits are given by the authorities to "loyal citizens" and every applicant would automatically place himself under suspicion. "Radio points" are installed in KP/b clubs, "Red Corners," and loudspeakers blare out the broadcasts from Vilnius and Moscow.

Nevertheless, several hundred unregistered radio receiving sets are owned illegally, and foreign broadcasts are heard.

Population and Minorities

162 Lithuania presently has roughly 2,300,000 inhabitants—a loss of 200,000 within the single year 1948. However, over 200,000 Soviet nationals—armed forces, MGB, MVD, and settlers—replaced the natives. The colonists settled where the long arm of the guerrillas cannot reach them—in large cities and in the areas where there were Russian settlements prior to 1940: in Zarasai county, and at Jonava and Kruonis. Russians are also settled in the Klaipėda District and in the western areas (Samagitia) which were largely depopulated by the retreating Germans and several "operations" of the MVD-MGB. Few Russians settled along the Polish-Lithuanian frontier and some 20,000 Lithuanians "repatriated" from Poland were moved there. East Prussia—in both the Russian and Polish-annexed sections—is settled predominantly by White-ruthenes (Byelorussians), presumably in an attempt to erect a Whiteruthenian "wedge toward the sea" which would finally cut off Lithuania from the Baltic.

Kaunas has a population of 150,000, of whom 60% are Lithuanians. Vilnius has a population of about 160,000, of whom 37% are Lithuanians, 23% are Poles, 40% are Russians and others. There is no longer a separate Polish underground since the "repatriation" of Poles.

There are practically no native Germans left, but there are thousands of German vagrants, mostly women and children who seek food and work on farms. Some Tatars, Karaims and Gypsies survived.

563 About 3,000 native Jews stayed in the country and some 15,000 other Jews arrived from Russia. The Jews settled in the cities and occupy the more important posts in the administration. Their children attend Russian schools exclusively. For these reasons, the natives distrust Jews. Even those Jews whom the Lithuanians had saved from extermination during the Nazi occupation at great personal risk, avoid helping those who aided them. In fact, when now approached for aid to save their benefactors from deportation, they complain that "food had been bad" when they were hiding on Lithuanian farms.

In Butrimonys, where some 100 Jewish families lived before the war, only several families survived. One of the surviving Jews was especially ungrateful toward the farmer who had saved him at great per-